

I am dismayed that the Sinclair Broadcasting Company has made a decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary during these final days preceding our national election. It reinforces the concerns we have had about the inherent abuses that are possible with the consolidation of media sources.

Democracy is not well served by large unfettered companies who use the public airwaves without charge and are obligated to serve the public interest, who then pander to their own interests without any obligation to the public.

Local news, community issues, and matters of importance to our regional areas demand that media ownership rules should not be weakened. Media ownership rules need to be strengthened and monitored to ensure that our democracy will survive. Consolidated media does not ensure that.

Thank you.

Barbara H. Pomeroy